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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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22913 7590 09/24/2002

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EXAMINER

CHOUDHARY, ANITA

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2153

DATE MAILED: 09/24/2002

7

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

[Handwritten signature]

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/371,916

Applicant(s)

LIU ET AL.

Examiner

Anita Choudhary

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 August 1999.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 10 August 1999 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☒ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 6. 6) ☐ Other:

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DETAILED ACTION

Oath/Declaration

Applicant has not given a post office address anywhere in the application papers as required by 37 CFR 1.33(a), which was in effect at the time of filing of the oath or declaration. A statement over applicant's signature providing a complete post office address is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 1-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Parameswaran Nair et al (US Patent 5,724,356) in view of Onishi et al. (US Patent 5,210,748).

In regards to claims 1 and 21 Nair et al. show features of the claimed invention. Nair et al. show modem used in bridge system for providing users with communications to outside networks. Nair et al. shows :

- Integration of modem and bridge in a single processing node (col. 5 lines 40-52; col. 19 lines 43-63; fig. 2).
- Address filtering of packets addressed to other devices at the intelligent modem node (col. 21 line 43- col. 25 line 21 fig. 17- fig. 22).

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Although Nair et al. shows these features of the invention including address filtering Nair et al. neglects to show specifically point out the acts of receiving, comparing, determining and adding an address as part of the filtering process. Nonetheless these steps are well known in the art and would have been an obvious modification of the system disclosed by Nair et al., as evidenced by Onishi et al.

In an analogous art, Onishi et al. discloses an address filtering unit using bridge processor having the following as related to claim 1 and 21.

- Receiving an incoming data frame from a device to a bridge unit, and extracting source address information from information frame at time of registration (col. 14 lines 44-62).
- Deciding at the time of registration whether the address information is to be registered in the entry table (col. 14 lines 44-62).
- Upon comparison by the bridge unit, registering or adding the address to the entry table (col. 14 lines 44-62).

Given the teachings of Onishi et al. a person having ordinary skill in the art would have readily recognized the desirability and advantages of modifying Nair et al. by employing the well known feature of bridge filtering such as disclosed by Onishi et al, in order to improve the efficiency of using an address entry table and address filter process (Onishi et al. col. 14 lines 58-62).

In referring to claim 2 and 16 Nair et al. shows modem processing node having bridge components (col. 5 lines 40-52; col. 19 lines 43-50; fig. 2).

In referring to claim 3, Nair et al. shows a buffer for receiving packet on the modem and the packet in buffer being processed by bridge filtering process (col. 25 lines 22-48).

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In referring to claim 4, Nair et al. show the act of determining that the destination is not local to the node (col. 23 lines 55- col. 24 lines 10).

In referring to claim 5, Nair et al. show the act of determining that the destination is on the local node and not allowing the packet to cross the bridge to another network therefore transmitting to the local user (col. 23 lines 18-54).

In referring to claim 6, 7, 8 and 19, Onishi et al. show the bridging processor comparing the packets source addresses in order to determine if an address is already entered in the entry table, further determining the address is not in entry table, then adding the address to the entry table (col. 14 lines 44-62).

In referring to claim 9, Nair et al. shows the user or communication device sending packet (fig. 19a).

In referring to claim 10, Nair et al. shows the user writing packet to receive buffer, which is a separate buffer for communication device used by bridge, and Nair et al shows second transmitting buffer.

In referring to claim 11, Onishi et al. show the packet being transmitted for the first time to communicate over the network by registering with a packet and the act of adding the address to the entry table on order to be registered (col. 15 lines 15-44).

In referring to claim 12, Nair et al. show remote communication device having modem driver installed and the act of using the modem for first time registration using a packet (col. 4 lines 59- col. 5 line 5).

In referring to claim 13, 20, and 22, Onishi et al. show the receiving a packet having destination address, recognizing whether the address is in the entry table, and transmitting packet upon recognition (col. 14 lines 44-62).

In referring to claim 14, Nair et al. show the act of receiving packet at modem and transmitting packet to modem driver (col. 19 lines 51-63).

In referring to claim 15, Onishi et al. shows the acts of:

- User communication device establishing connection with modem (col. 14 lines 44-63)
- Transmitting a registration packet including a network address of the user (source address) (col. 14 line 44- col. 15 line 44).
- Adding device to entry table so user is registered with modem unit all with out user intervention (col. 14 line 44- col. 15 line 44).

In referring to claim 17, Nair et al. shows modem hosted by processing device (main controller) internal to the system (fig. 2; col. 5 lines 40-52).

In referring to claim 18, Nair et al. shows the modem external to main controller (fig. 2; col. 5 lines 40-52).

Conclusion


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Anita Choudhary whose telephone number is (703) 305-5268. The examiner can normally be reached on 9am-5pm.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Glenton Burgess can be reached on (703) 305-4792. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 746-7239 for regular communications and (703) 746 7238 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-3900.

AC
September 13, 2002


GLENTON B. BURGESS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100